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City of Barrie

Final

International Relations Committee

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 | **6:00 PM** | **Sir Robert Barrie Room**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by the Finance and Responsible Governance Committee on September 18, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Councillor, J. Harris at 6:04 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 15 - Councillor, J. Harris
M. Sachkiw - Co Chair and Arras
Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
LCol G. Johnston - Base Borden
J. Babcock - Global Perspectives Program
T. Gardiner - Japan Twinning
C. Hassey
W. Hay
A. Jones
J. Massie
L. Palson - Georgian College
J. M. Pigeon - German Twinning
B. Sergeant - Harrogate
S. Scully-Pratt - Youth Ambassadors
K. Watson - Georgian College

STAFF:
Business Development Officer, N. Gavarre
Director of Economic and Creative Development, S. Schlichter
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard.

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "A"

GERMANY DELEGATION UPDATE

S. Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development provided an update concerning the Invest-Barrie Germany Trade delegation.. Ms. Schlichter advised that between November 4, 2024 to November 8, 2024 the delegation will be traveling to Zweibrucken, Germany, the state of Baden-Württemberg to visit Stuttgart, Schonach and Freiburg.

Jean Maurice Pigeon advised that he is working Zweibrucken, Germany to prepare the itinerary for the delegations, and he asked the Committee for feedback on sites of interest during their stay. The Committee members provided their suggestions to Mr. Pigeon.

Jean Maurice Pigeon suggested adding an additional Committee member to the official delegation. The Committee discussed and provided their feedback to Mr. Pigeon.

Ms. Schlichter advised that Invest-Barrie Germany Trade delegation will be comprised of staff from Invest Barrie, Deputy Mayor Robert Thomson who will be traveling as part of the Invest Barrie portfolio, representatives from three businesses and five International Relations Committee members.

The Committee confirmed that the official delegation will be comprised of the following five Committee members:

- Co-Chair, Councillor Jim Harris
- Colin Hassey
- Al Jones
- Wayne Hay
- Jean Maurice Pigeon.

Ms. Schlichter provided a summary of the potential costs associated with the official delegations visit to Germany including transportation, airfare, meals and lodging.

The Committee discussed that in accordance with motion 24-G-180 adopted by City Council on August 14, 2024, the need to increase the approved budget for the official delegation from up to $15,000 to up to $21,000.

The Committee approved an expenditure from the International Relations Committee budget for an amount up to $21,000 for costs associated with the official delegations visit to Germany including transportation, hotel, flights and meals between November 4 to November 8, 2024.

Kelly Watson of Georgian College indicated that the representatives from the

college will be traveling Zweibrucken, Germany in September, 2024 and would be interested in visiting the fire college in Germany.

Councillor, J. Harris indicated that there is no separate IRC Travel Policy, and that the Committee follows the provisions of the Reimbursement of Council Expenses Policy.

Further discussion will take place at the next meeting concerning the approach to composition of delegations.

The International Relations Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "B"

COMMITTEE TRAVEL POLICY

That staff in the Legislative and Court Services Department develop a Committee travel policy using the same provisions in the Reimbursement of Council Expenses Policy and report back to the Finance and Responsible Governance Committee; and

That until a Committee Travel Policy is approved by City Council, members of the International Relations Committee follow the travel provisions detailed in the Reimbursement of Council Expenses Policy.

This matter was recommended (Section "B") to Finance and Responsible Governance Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 9/18/2024.

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "C"

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN UPDATE

Stephannie Schlichter provided an update on Saginaw, Michigan travel expenditures from May, 2024.

Ms. Schlichter advised that a delegation from the Saginaw Valley State University and City of Saginaw will be visiting the City of Barrie between October 15, 2024, to October 17, 2024.

Colin Hay and Al Jones are the Committee leads for Saginaw, Michigan.

The Committee approved an expenditure of up to $5,000 from the International Relations Committee budget for costs associated with hosting the delegations from Saginaw, Michigan between October 15, 2024 to October 17, 2024.

YOUTH AMBASSADORS/GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM UPDATE

Shannon Scully-Pratt provided a summary of the youth delegation from Murayama, Japan's visit to the City of Barrie during summer, 2024. She indicated that the delegation was comprised of two leaders and eight youth, and they had a great time during their stay. She highlighted that the youth delegation was very excited to have met the Consul General of Japan.

Ms. Scully-Pratt advised that the host families were great, and thanked the representatives of Georgian College and all those who volunteered their time to welcome the delegation.

Mark Sachkiw showcased a scroll received as a gift from Murayama, Japan.

Jamie Babcock provided an update concerning the Global Perspectives Program. He advised that a delegation from Zweibrucken, Germany will be visiting Barrie between September 26, 2024 to October 24, 2024, and that the goodbye party is scheduled for October 23, 2024 at Innisdale Secondary School. Mr. Babcock commented that the Simcoe County District School Board will now be responsible for the finances related to the Global Perspectives Program.

The Committee approved an expenditure from the International Relations Committee Budget of up to $8,000.00 to cover transportation costs associated with hosting the Global Perspectives Program youth delegation from Zweibrucken, Germany during September/October, 2024.

Mr. Babcock commented that a group from Neills Brock of Denmark will be visiting the City of Barrie between October 7, 2024 to November 30, 2024 and will be connecting with the students from Global Perspective Program and Georgian College

HARROGATE, UNITED KINGDOM

Bill Sergeant provided an update concerning Harrogate, United Kingdom. He commented on Harrogate International Partnerships potential for cultural exchanges with retail, hospitality, arts and culture businesses.

Mr. Sergeant discussed the potential for a cultural exchange between Barrie's Theatre by the Bay and Harrogate, United Kingdom.

MURAYAMA, JAPAN UPDATE

Mark Sachkiw advised that the Consul General of Japan visited the City of Barrie and was able to connect with staff in Invest Barrie.

Mr. Sachkiw commented that he recently attended a goodbye party for a delegation from Toyko, Japan.

ARRAS, FRANCE UPDATE

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair discussed using his contacts in Arras, France to assist a local group with their travel plans.

SIR ROBERT BARRIE (SRB) PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Bill Sergeant provided an update concerning the Sir Robert Barrie Project. He commented that there are plans to temporarily remove the Sir Robert Barrie portrait from the Mayors Office to be varnished.

Mr. Sergeant advised that the Sir Robert Barrie Committee fundraised for all SRB Project Initiatives, and donations were received from Barrie citizens.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

CHAIRMAN